

I have with me eight cases taken off *Ulmus procera* Salis. at Dartford Heath, Kent, in October 1975. The lengths of these cases ranged from 5.0 mm-6.2 mm. Some younger larval cases were all 2.5 mm. long, attached to 6.0 mm.-7.0 mm. cut outs.

The main emergence period tends to be about the middle of June, slightly earlier or later, according to season.

In the Basel area of Switzerland, I have found 12 cases of this species between the 4th and 9th June this year. The lengths of these cases ranged between 6.5 mm. and 9.5 mm., the average being 8 mm. They were feeding on *Ulmus glabra* Huds. Five of the smaller overwintered cases were also found, showing that five at least had constructed their final case in the spring, not in September as in England. None of the larger cases, however, looked as if they had endured a winter. The lengths of these five cases were: one 2.5 mm., one 3.0 mm., and three 3.5 mm.

All but two of these cases produced parasites during the second week in July. The two moths emerged on the 3rd July.

A search on the 11th September revealed a number of young *Coleophora* cases. The egg was found tucked up into the hairs against a rib, usually in the angle of a lateral vein and the midrib. From this, the larva had mined an area 3-4 mm. x 1 mm., leaving dispersed grains of frass. Out of the end of this mine a 1.5 mm.-2.0 mm. case is cut, leaving a 2.0 mm.-2.5 mm. cut out, The larva had then fed a little in this case before constructing a further case 3.5 mm.-4.0 mm. in length.

The first case was light ochreous-grey, almost erect on the leaf, whereas the second case formed an angle of about 45° and was dark grey with the terminal  $\frac{1}{3}$  whitish.

I will have to wait until next year to see if these larvae were the early stages of *badiipennella* or whether perhaps they were of *Coleophora limosipennella* (Dup.). In Britain, it is thought that *badiipennella* makes only two cases normally in its life cycle. *Limosipennella* is known to make three, but the nine overwintered first cases I have taken of this species have been between 2.0 mm. and 3.0 mm. in length. The 20 overwintered second cases I have taken were, however, between 3.0 mm. and 4.0 mm. The final case of this species ranges between 10.0 mm. and 12.5 mm., but exceptionally it reaches 14.0 mm.

What makes the S. England larvae feed up quicker than those from Switzerland? — S. E. WHITEBREAD, Hofackerstrasse 7, CH-4132 MUTTENZ, Switzerland, 1.x.1976.

THE SPECKLED WOOD (PARARGE AEGERIA L.) IN MADEIRA.  
— My friend Mr. N. D. Riley took a single specimen of this species on 8th October this year (1976), while he was on a short visit to Madeira. The specimen now in my collection, is a fresh, brightly marked female of the typical form (*P. a. aegeria*), taken about 15 miles north of Funchal at Ribeiro Frio, near Forest Lodge, flying at 860 m. The endemic *Pararge xiphia* was flying at the time, but *P. aegeria* was not seen again. This appears to be the first reliable record of the occurrence

of the butterfly on the island.

It seems possible that we may witness a repetition of the story of the Small White, *Pieris (Artogeia) rapae*, recently recorded by Niells L. Wolff. This species was not known to occur on Madeira until December 1971, when a specimen was caught near Funchal. Three years later, in July 1974, the butterfly suddenly became extremely common and widespread over the island, flying from sea level to 1,500 m. or more. Mr. Riley tells me that it was by far the commonest butterfly seen during his visit. Referring again to *P. aegeria*, I think this must be accepted provisionally as a Madeiran species, although only a single specimen from the island is known at present. Ref.: Wolff, N. L. 1975. *Bol. Mus. Munic. Funchal*, **XXIX**: 26-32. — Dr. L. G. HIGGINS, Focklesbrook Farm, Chobham, Woking, Surrey.

LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI (BOISD.) IN WINCHESTER. — Although I have been running an m.v. trap for the last three years in Winchester, during 1974 and 1975 there was no sign of *Lithophane leautieri* (Boisd.), which was first recorded in Britain by Dr. K. G. Blair at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, in 1951. Mr. B. Goater in *The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* mentions that the species now seems to be established at Martyr Worthy (about five miles N.E. of Winchester), one or two being recorded annually, and these were the nearest records to Winchester itself. This year, however, six specimens have appeared up to 29th October, all on different nights, in my m.v. trap in Winchester, actual dates being October 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 28th. It appears that the spread of this comparatively new addition to the British list is continuing. — Colonel D. H. STERLING, "Tangmere", 2 Hampton Lane, Winchester, Hants., 30.x.1976.

GREEN ISLANDS OF THE NEPTICULIDAE. — I have read with interest the discussion surrounding this phenomenon, in particular the notes by Mr. E. H. Wild (*Ent. Rec.*, **88**: 103) and Col. A. M. Emmet (*ibid.*, **88**: 207). Although not claiming to advance any definitive solution to the problem, I feel it worth considering two possible causes of the green islands. Firstly, that the presence of the larva induces and sustains the island. If true, this would be by no means a unique situation. The chlorosis (yellowing) associated with the later stages of diseases caused by certain rusts and mildews is often broken by islands of green tissue surrounding the sites of initial infection, and these islands may persist for some considerable time against a background of chlorotic and senescent tissue. Furthermore, it is possible to experimentally induce the formation of green islands by procedures such as application of fungal or yeast extracts, or by the use of synthetic chemicals which resemble natural plant hormones. In some cases they can be induced to form on leaves that are already yellowing. Thus it is possible for a green island to be induced and sustained by an external influence. Could such an external influence be a Nepticulid